**IN THE CLAIMS**:

Please cancel claims 4, 6, 10 and 12, without prejudice, and amend claims 1-3, 5, 7-9 and 11 as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) Method for routing in an ATM network (1) comprising a plurality of nodes [[(100, 101, 102, ..., 10n)]] (100, 101, 102,103) connected to each other via links [[(110, 111, 112, ...,11n)]] (110-117), a network management centre (2) being connected to said ATM network (1), in which method an ATM call is routed from an originating node to a terminal node, c h a r a c t e r i s e d in that

– optimisation information is defined in a centralised manner in the network management centre (2);

– the optimisation information is so defined that a sum of rejected capacity for each connection does not exceed a predetermined limit;

– the optimisation information is transferred to the nodes [[(100, 101, 102, ..., 10n)]] (100, 101, 102, 103); and

– the ATM call is routed in the originating node using the optimisation information and local status information.

2. (Currently Amended) Method as defined in claim 1, c h a r a c t e r i s e d in that the optimisation information is so defined as to minimise ~~the~~ a sum of rejected capacity for traffic categories and for ~~the~~ connections in each category, said sum being weighted by ~~the~~ returns obtained from the connections.

3. (Currently Amended) Method as defined in claim 1, characterised in that the optimisation information is so defined that ~~the~~ a sum of rejected capacity for ~~the~~ connections in each traffic category does not exceed a predetermined limit for the traffic category concerned.

4. (Cancelled).

5. (Currently Amended) Method as defined in claim 1, characterised in that the optimisation information is defined using ~~the~~ a capacity required by ~~the~~ connection requests received by the nodes.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) System for routing in an ATM network (1) comprising a plurality of nodes [[(100, 101, 102, ..., 10n)]] (100, 101, 102, 103) connected to each other via links [[(110, 111, 112, ..., 11n)]] (110-117), a network management centre (2) being connected to said ATM network (1), in which system an ATM call is routed from an originating node to a terminal node, characterised in that

– the system comprises optimisation means in conjunction with the network management centre (2) ~~(21)~~ for centralised definition of optimisation information;

– the system comprises means for defining the optimisation information so that a sum of rejected capacity for each connection does not exceed a predetermined limit;

– the system comprises means ~~(21)~~ for transferring the optimisation information to the nodes [[(100, 101, 102, ..., 10n)]] (100, 101, 102, 103); and

– the system comprises means [[(100, 101, 102, ..., 10n)]] (100, 101, 102, 103) for routing the ATM call in the originating node using the optimisation information and local status information.

8. (Currently Amended) System as defined in claim 7, characterised in that the system comprises means ~~(21)~~ for defining the optimisation information so as to minimise ~~the~~ a sum of rejected capacity for traffic categories and connections in each category, said sum being weighted by ~~the~~ returns obtained from the connections.

9. (Currently Amended) System as defined in claim 7, characterised in that the system comprises means ~~(21)~~ for defining the optimisation information so that ~~the~~ a sum of rejected capacity for ~~the~~ connections in each traffic category does not exceed a predetermined limit for the traffic category concerned.

10. (Cancelled).

11. (Currently Amended) System as defined in claim 7, characterised in that the system comprises means ~~(21)~~ for utilising the capacity required by ~~the~~ connection requests received by the nodes [[(100, 101, 102, ..., 10n)]] (100, 101, 102, 103) in defining the optimisation information.

12. (Cancelled)